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WHAT DRINKING DOES.

Francis Murphy Electricities His Hobbies with Stories from Real Life.

Before the collection was taken up last night at the Meridian-street Church Mr. Murphy directed the ushers to "pass the large hats and go down the aisle."

He said this with a hearty appreciation of his humor that made it fresh, and his large audience laughed once more at the joke.

With appropriate remarks, the song "Gathering in the Shower" rang out as the ushers slowly passed the large hats.

Mr. Roberts, who had signed the pledge when Mr. Murphy was here before, and has since been working for the Y. M. C. A., related his experience in temperance work.

Speaking of himself, he had been saved by the power of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Murphy's discourse rambled more than usual last night. Cauting the spirit of the audience he would speak in a line with that, and keep its members stirred with enthusiasm and a young man who had signed the pledge that morning.

The little wife had signed the pledge. He thought her about as large as his Bible when he first saw her. She was a neatly dressed, refined, sweet little woman.

The old man's secret was a striking fellow. He had told her sweet stories. He said: "Katie, if you live with me you'll never regret it; you'll sing, you'll be dead gone."

He had a heart in his breast that thumped like a tug-boat. But he had a weakness for drink. Some had advised him to leave the place, but Mr. Murphy said it was a sin against the Holy Ghost to tell a woman to leave her husband.

He denounced divorce as a burning shame. Christianity—this breaking this legal contract made at the altar of God. But the little wife had stood by her husband as she should. The scene as she brought her husband to Mr. Murphy to sign the pledge was touchingly described.

Mr. Murphy, at the close, told of an old man he had visited. The old man's secret was that he had been a drunkard.

He unbuttoned his shirt collar and showed a mark, the print of fingers, made by his son. "Miserable God!" cried the speaker. "There is nothing in this world—there is nothing else that would make a man reach up with his right hand and choke his father, and stamp upon him—nothing, oh God, except this accursed drinking—nothing—nothing else."

Mr. Murphy announced that he would repeat the story of real life, which he had the first night he was in the city, on Thursday night. Meeting to-night.

A BILLOW OF FLAME.

Thrilling Experience of an Indianapolis Man Who Became a Kansas Pioneer.

In 1871 John Williams moved from near Indianapolis to southwestern Kansas and took a claim. Before moving his family he went with a fifteen-year-old son, Henry, to prepare a home. Henry recently returned on a business trip, and in conversation with a New York reporter related some early experience in the great wilderness which western Kansas then was.

"We went out in the summer," he said, "and chose our claim. It was seventeen miles from the nearest neighbor and in an unbroken prairie. The city of Wichita has since grown up within thirty miles of us. We bought some lumber and hired it hauled from the railroad, and then built a small frame house ourselves, camping near by as we worked. We had trouble to keep a supply of water, and a great many annoyances had to be overcome. As we had as yet no neighbors, every errand to the station or the neighbors had to be done on foot, and was an undertaking requiring several days. Occasionally bands of Indians came riding across the prairie, and generally carried away some of our valuable tools, which we had presented to them rather than risk giving offense."

"Finally, well along in the fall, our house was finished and we set to work to dig a well. It was about twenty feet deep when, while we were resting at noon, we saw a tremendous cloud of smoke in the West. It spread until it soon filled half the horizon. We had heard of prairie fires, but had not the slightest idea how to avoid their fury. We were excited and ran here and there to find some place of security. In the half hour that followed the wind rose a gale, and a well of seething flame, roaring like a hurricane, extended as far to the north and south as we could see, and was rushing toward us at terrific speed. We had no time to think of anything but escape. We ran for our lives, and were holding to each other's hands in despair, I thought of the well."

"We ran for it with desperate speed, and leaped down the ladder with scarcely a touch. Just as we reached the bottom a billow of flame rolled over us with a sullen roar that to this day, I recall it, sounds like a hoarse cry of disappointment. In an instant it was gone and we climbed from our retreat. The wall of fire was east of us and rushing away as rapidly as it came. It seemed as though the flames which progressed by rolling along below the wind. It would seize bunches of tall grass and carry them up and over in its great cylinder, thirty feet in diameter. It was an awful sight and our hair-breadth escape seemed almost a miracle. For a moment we gazed at the long line, its roar dying away as the blackened, desert behind it rapidly widened. Then we thought of the house and turned. It was burning in a hundred places. 'We had no water and it would have been unavailing if we had had it. Fifteen minutes more and the only thing to show for our summer's work was the smoke-filled hole which had saved our lives.'"

AMUSEMENTS.

A much better house in point of numbers greeted the second presentation of "The Royal Guard" last night at the Grand by Mr. Mayo and his excellent company. This afternoon "Nordeck" was given, and the engagement will close to-night with the always popular "Jury Crockett," which will be given by special request. To-morrow evening Lydia Thompson's burlesque combination will appear at the Grand in "Penelope," to be followed on Friday evening with "Columba."

Will C. Wheeler, lawyer, journalist, literateur and what not, who abandoned the intellectual for the practical several years ago and is making money, is here arranging for Daniel Smith's return in his new play, "Daddy Nolan," which will be given at English's the first part of the coming week. The "Black Flag" combination will continue at the Park.

THE BALL PLAYERS.

Charley Bassett arrived last night to join the Indianapolis team, and Buckley and McGeehy will be here to-day. The players who are here are taking four hours' practice work a day, and are showing up in good form. To-morrow and on Saturday they will play exhibition games with a team composed of the best players in the City League.

Young Russell, a local pitcher, who shows great promise, will probably be signed by the management as an experiment. He is by long odds the best amateur pitcher in the city. He will be put in with the regular team on Saturday.

TO ASSIST ALMA MATER.

Ex-pupils of St. Mary's of the Woods will hold a bazaar and fair in Indianapolis some time this spring. The proceeds to be applied to rebuilding the portion of the institution burned a few months ago. All who have ever attended the school are invited to cooperate. A meeting has been called for Friday morning in the parlors of St. John's Academy. Definite plans will be agreed upon at that time.

TRYING TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY.

Representative Carroll, the author of the miscreant-cowboy bill which has no exception clause, has got himself interviewed as to how his important omission occurred. His charges that responsibility for it rests with the lobbyists for the coal operators, the Chairman of the House Committee on Mines, and the Governor. Neither the smoking alder, the Chairman of the Committee on Enrolled Bills, nor the author (himself) are responsible.

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